



## REPORT OF THE GILMAN LIBRARY

Many thanks to all of you who have displayed your "special collection" in our library either in the form of an artistic collection to decorate our walls or a collection placed under glass in our display case located near the circulation desk. New ideas are always welcome. We will continue to display any special collections that you may be willing to share with the community in the year 2005.

We have included DVD's as part of our library collection. These items may be checked out for two days (Sundays and Mondays not included). We welcome donations of DVD's that are in good condition to help expand our collection.

Here at the Gilman Library we are still talking about books. The book discussion group (Alton's Book Chat) meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 PM to discuss a book of their choice. Meetings are usually held in the Agnes Thompson Meeting Room at the Gilman Library. New members are always welcome.

If you feel as though you need to put that book down for a while you can always pick up knitting. You can join the "Knitting Circle" here at the library. Beginner's and experienced knitter's come together to share ideas and just enjoy one another's company. The Knitter's have provided some wonderful ideas for new books that have been added to the library collection. New members are always welcome.

The Gilman Library is "more than just books". Do you enjoy the challenge of a good puzzle? If so, come and check out our collection of puzzles and take part in our "puzzle swap". Take a puzzle for an unlimited amount of time. If you take a puzzle you can swap it with one of your own or bring it back when you are finished. We welcome donations of puzzles that are in good condition.

Did you forget your library card? We have also added a "paperback book swap" that works the same way the puzzle swap works so you may never be without a book. In addition, if you are going away on vacation and hesitate to check out a library book for fear that it may be lost or overdue you may take a book from the specially marked book swap shelves without worrying about bringing the book back on time. In fact, you can leave it at your vacation spot and have more room in your luggage for souvenirs.

Gift Certificates are still available and may be used to purchase a library card for family or friends who are not residents of Alton. You may use gift certificates to purchase brass bookmarks, Bicentennial Posters, Alton Afghans, Alton Village Collectibles, Commemorative Bricks, canvas book bags, and t-shirts are still available for purchase and it is not too late to "Adopt a Plant, Tree, or Shrub".

Story hour for children ages 3-5 is held on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 to 1:45 PM. Those who attend enjoy stories, songs and crafts. We commend our Assistant Librarian, Cindy Miller, and our "story hour moms" Lisa Holiday, Stacy Morin, Shannon Roberts, Sally Francis, Marilyn Dame, Tina Borg, Shay Bennett, Kristy Parzaile, Jack Jamison, Karen Petelle, Kimbyr Buffington, and Kimberly Gannon for all they have done to help instill a love and appreciation for books, reading and learning in our little people. We wish to thank our "Story Hour Moms" for making story hour a great success.

The Friends of the Gilman Library continue to be a tremendous asset to the library. As in the past, they have continued their efforts to "make the Gilman Library the best it can be" by donating time and refreshments to various meetings, programs and events throughout the year. The following committees worked to benefit the library:

1. Decorating Comm. - To decorate the library during the holiday season.
2. Fund Raising Ideas Comm. - money was generated through the sale of calendars, T-shirts and canvas book bags, a car wash and a book, bag and bake sale.
3. Refreshment Comm. - to contact various members for donations of baked goods to be provided during sponsored programs and events.

Officers of the Friends of the Gilman Library include Co-Chairmen - Mary Bee Longabaugh and Barbara Ingoldsby, Treasurer - Shirley Bishop, Secretary - Dot Folsom and Corresponding Secretary - Pat Merrill. We extend our sincere thanks to all members of the Friends of the Gilman Library for another wonderful year.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

In honor of Valentine's Day, the Gilman Library "celebrated our love of books" from February 07<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>. We celebrated in two ways. First, by holding a special book sale. Second, by accepting all overdue books free of late fees. This sale was a great success. Special thanks to all who took part in this event.

The Gilman Library participated in the Town-Wide Yard sale on Saturday, June 5, 2004 by holding a "Book It, Bag It and Bake It" sale. Friends of the Gilman Library Canvas Book bags could be purchased for five dollars and filled with books free of charge or a plastic bag could be filled for one dollar. Delicious baked goods, donated by members of the Friends of the Gilman Library and many others, were also available for a nominal fee.

This year's summer reading program entitled "Check Out A Hero" was a great success. There were 75 children enrolled in the program and approximately 700 books read. Summer Readers enjoyed reading books, magazines and newspapers. Many more children took part in the program through answering weekly trivia questions, participating in guessing games, completing word search and crossword puzzles, donating to the New Hampshire Humane Society and entering the coloring contest. Participants, friends and family members celebrated summer reading with singer/storyteller Michael Sullivan. We look forward to another wonderful program next year!!

The Friends of the Gilman Library held their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Car Wash on Saturday, July 17, 2004 from 8 AM to 12 PM. Special thanks go to members of The Friends of the Gilman Library who worked so hard to make this happen and to those members of the

community who took part through allowing us to give their car a bath. We are forever grateful to our friends and our community for supporting us and for helping to "make the Gilman Library the best it can be".

Our Annual Mum Sale, scheduled for Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 19, was held on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Gilman Library. Unfortunately, we could not hold the sale on Saturday, due to poor weather conditions. However, we did very well and had a wonderful time. We wish to thank all of you who took part in this year's mum sale through volunteering to help with the sale and/or through making a purchase. We are very grateful to Sunflower Gardens, Rte. 28 So. Alton, for providing the glorious mums, and for making a very generous donation to the Gilman Library Building Fund. Words alone cannot express how much we appreciate the support of the Friends of the Gilman Library, Sunflower Gardens and our community. Proceeds go toward the Gilman Library Building Fund and are used for library automation.

On Sunday, August 8, 2004 the Friends of the Gilman Library took part in their first Fundraising Breakfast. This very special event was sponsored by the American Legion and proceeds went to the Friends of the Gilman Library. Community response to this event was so great that we ran out of food and had to close the doors early!! We are looking forward to another wonderful breakfast next year.

Once again, the Friends of the Gilman Library demonstrated their expertise and dedication to our library through hosting our fifth annual Holiday Tea, which was held on Tuesday, December 14, 2004. Friends, patrons and library staff enjoyed refreshments and holiday music presented by members of the Prospect Mountain High School Chorus. Our most sincere thanks go to everyone who took part in the Holiday Tea through decorating the library for the holidays, preparing for the tea, delivering refreshments, providing entertainment or for attending.

#### MUSEUM PASS

Wright Museum, Center Street, Wolfeboro, NH. - 2 family passes for 2 adults and four children under the age of 18- Yearly membership valid from 5/31/04 to 5/31/05. Library passes may be checked out for two days.

#### LIBRARY PROGRAMS

The Gilman Library received two grants through the New Hampshire Humanities Council for the year 2004. As a result, the following programs were made possible;

Daniel Webster: His Life and Times presented by Kenneth E. Shewmaker of Dartmouth College.

(Refreshments provided by the Friends of the Gilman Library and the Alton Historical Society)

The White Mountain Huts: History and Future presented by Allen Koop of Dartmouth College.

(Refreshments provided by the Friends of the Gilman Library)

Other programs that were held at the Gilman Library include;

"Cemeteries of Alton" presented by Shirley Lane

(Sponsored by the Friends of the Gilman Library)

"Alton's Boys In Blue" Presented by Charles W. Canney Camp #5 The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

(Sponsored by the Oliver J. M. Lyceum Fund and the Friends of the Gilman Library)

"Herbal Tea Blending" with Merry Lineweber

(Sponsored by the Friends of the Gilman Library)

"Travel Back in Time to 1939-1945 America" presented by Di Simpson of the Wright Museum

(Sponsored by the Gilman Library with refreshments provided by the Friends of the Gilman Library)

I Believe! (In Fairy Tales) Stories That Might Be True presented by Michael Sullivan

(Sponsored by the Gilman Library - Refreshments provided by the Friends of the Gilman Library)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Volunteerism plays a large part of what makes our wonderful library run smoothly. Without the exceptional efforts of our volunteer staff managing the library would not be possible. Regular volunteers include Shirley Copeland, David Birdsey, Nancy Jordan, Dot Folsom, Pat Merrill, Terry Gilmore, Kathi Hopper, Daryl Czech, Kim Dain and Peg Kayser, Other volunteers who were on hand to help with special events were Shirley Bishop, Karen Comeau, Valerie George, Vanessa Gilbert, Anne Marie Header, Barbara Ingolsby, Deb Laurion, Danielle LaPouttre, Becky Miller, Gene Rogers, Mildred Cropper, Marie Stackhouse, Mary Bee Longabaugh, Cindy Miller, Cynthia Watkins and Bunny Weedmann. Regular and temporary volunteers have worked approximately 1,282 hours in the year 2004. This includes hours worked by "story hour moms" mentioned earlier in this report. It does not include volunteer hours worked by the Gilman Library Trustees.

Special thanks go to members of the Alton Centennial Rotary Club, (David Countway, James Fontaine, Chris Blackstone, John Chilton, and Melissa Gulbrandsen) along with, David Birdsey and Zander Gulbrandsen for placing shingles on the roof of the structure that is covering the intake valve on the underground fuel tank. Their hard work was much appreciated and has added a nice touch to the landscaping.

Various organizations, clubs and individuals throughout the year used the Agnes Thompson meeting room. Users include the Alton Garden Club, the Alton Historical Society, the Friends of the Gilman Library, the PTSA, the Book Discussion Group, the United Association, the Quilter's Club, the Knitting Circle, etc. The total number of

meetings and programs held in the library in 2004 was 147. At least 2,322 persons were in attendance during these meetings and programs.

In addition to regular duties associated with the library, the Assistant Librarian attended 3 Friends of the Gilman Library meetings and a workshop entitled "Know Your PC" offered by the New Hampshire State Library

The Librarian attended 4 RALI meetings, 6 Friends of the Gilman Library meetings, 1 CHILIS meeting, 2 NHLA meetings, 1 meeting for school library and public library librarians in Alton and Barnstead, and 5 meetings pertaining to the budget for the Gilman Library. The Librarian is the Secretary for the Gilman Library Trustees and Co - Chairman for the Rochester Area Library Cooperative.

The purpose of the Gilman Library is to enrich the quality of life through nurturing the joy of reading and lifelong learning by addressing the informational, educational and recreational needs of the community.

Through the year 2005 we will continue to "make the Gilman Library the best it can be" and will remain eternally grateful for the support of our community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Brown  
Librarian

GILMAN LIBRARY  
GENERAL STATISTICS  
2004

Circulation - 31,804

Library Card Holders - 2,092

Library Collection - 16,777